

Ministre d'État  
Transports



Minister of State  
Transport

Mr. Chris Brown  
1102 - 258 Lisgar Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 0C9

OCT 16 1987

Dear Mr. Brown:

This is in reference to your letter of 18 October 1987, in which you requested information pertaining to the responsibilities of public servants in carrying out their duties.

Public servants are responsible for the conduct of their activities insofar as they must carry out their duties in adherence to government policies and procedures. Ministers give policy direction to government staff who are then accountable for the implementation of government policy consistent with the direction received.

Should a Minister's aide or other staff attempt to interpret government policy they do so in full recognition that, should there be any need for clarification, the authoritative view would come from the responsible Minister.

With respect to your comments on damages relating to policy differences, if there are actual personal or property losses attributed to improper advice by a government official the normal channel for compensation is through the courts.

I appreciate that you have taken the time to write to me and trust the foregoing information has addressed your query.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Monique Vézina'.

Monique Vézina